

others of the genus I have had here, *bicornis* (Germ.) and *fergussoni* Joy – both normally coastal – have not so far turned up again; cf. *Ent. Rec.* **96**: 44, **104**: 325. Like Mr Plant, I know of no early record of *germanicus* far inland other than Walker's from Oxford, which he cites.

I have no plausible explanation of what looks, on the surface, like a marked change in this beetle's habits or habitat. Yet I do not believe it is breeding anywhere close to the sites of capture; the facts seem rather to suggest massive migratory flights, but whether from our coasts or estuaries, or from the continent, we can at present only guess. I incline at the moment to the latter view. Other species of *Bledius* seem involved similarly, but to a far smaller extent.

Incidentally, the absence of *B. germanicus* from Joy's work is due to the fact that in 1932 the species had not been distinguished, in Britain, from its very close ally *spectabilis* Kraatz. It was added to our list as a new species, *limicola* Tott., in 1940, though Wagner had described his species in 1935.

– A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Further observations on nocturnal flights of *Vespula* Thomson (Hymenoptera: Vespidae)

A few years ago I recorded some experiences with a garden moth trap which seemed to attract large numbers of wasps (in this case *Vespula vulgaris* (L.)) during its overnight operation (*Ent. Rec.* **104**: 322-323). I could find no previous records of nocturnal flights of the common wasp, and no readers came forward with any similar experiences.

During early October 1995 the need to catch an early morning train to London meant the trap had to be examined well before dawn. On several occasions wasps were seen actively (and once or twice aggressively!) flying around the light bulb. In later conversation Tony Rouse of Folkestone, Kent, told me he had observed wasps flying at all hours of the night during the summer of 1995 – seemingly attracted to a honeydew-covered willow hedge near the trap. Thus it would appear that, given suitable conditions, wasps of the genus *Vespula* are active at all hours of day and night. It does, however, raise some interesting questions on their method of navigation.– PAUL SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS.

***Furcula bicuspis* (Borkh.) (Lep.: Notodontidae) – further extension of range in the London area**

I was extremely surprised to record a fine male of this species at my garden m.v. light on 26 May 1995. For north-west Kent M. Chalmers-Hunt (1962, *Butterflies and Moths of Kent*) cites no records for this part of the county except to comment that it inhabited Darenth Wood in the early nineteenth century. He described it as being scarce in Kent, and mainly wealden.